and initiative. They are well clothed (except on the Roumanian Front), well booted,* well fed, and well cared for—the standard being Russian, not English. The Russian private is more punctilious in saluting than the private of any army I have seen in this War. . . .

So far as I could see and hear, I should think the morale of the Russian Army is good, and the officers and men are less depressed by their lack of guns, of ammunition, and of aeroplanes, than any other Army of the Alliance in a similar situation."

But where did Sir Henry Wilson ever see any other army of the Alliance " in a similar situation ? " An incident which was not recorded in his report, but which so impressed him that he frequently spoke of it afterwards, occurred at one point of his visit to the front. Through an interpreter he was chatting with some soldiers in a trench, and was surprised to find that the question they chiefly wanted to ask him, with a quite particular insistence, was " whether the British soldiers fighting on the Western Front were called upon to tear down barbed-wire entanglements with their hands ! "

Lord Milner's gloomy view

Lord Milner could not shut his eyes to the scantiness of the help we were arranging to offer to Russia. He stated in his report :—

" Of course, when all is said and

done. the amount of assistance which we arc offering to give

* He was not well informed as to boots and food. On some fronts there was a lamentable deficiency in both these respects.